

Theme: Snow Animals!

Week 1

This document contains all of the activities for the theme “for the age group “Big Littles.”

Have fun!

Questions or comments? Please email us at

[playconnecttoday@gmail.com!](mailto:playconnecttoday@gmail.com)

All activities require adult supervision!

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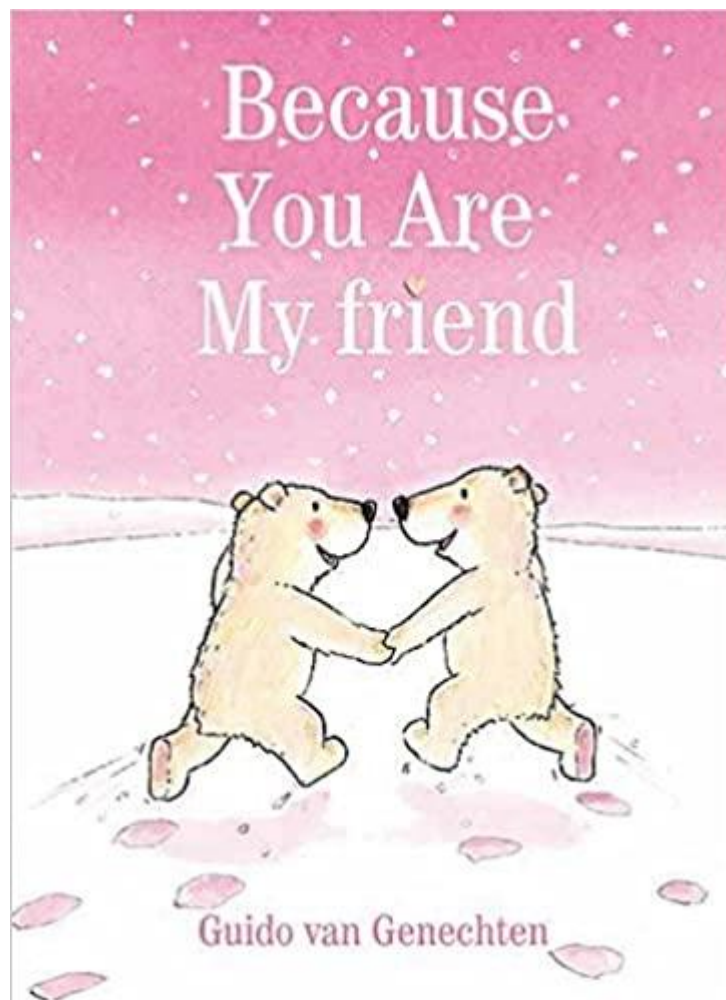
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Book Suggestion

“Because you are my Friend”

(We highly recommend checking your local library for this book, however if you cannot find it-please see link on our “Theme extras” web page to purchase if desired or find another book that showcases snow animals)! - We suggest using the same book for two weeks as this really helps children gain reading comprehension of the book!



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Song Suggestion


Penguins waddling

Written by: Play Connect LLC

5 little penguins were waddling
Until 1 saw some water and jumped right in!

4 little penguins were waddling
Until 1 saw some water and jumped right in!

3 little penguins were waddling
Until 1 saw some water and jumped right in!

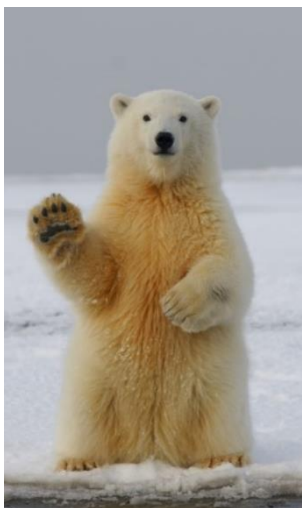
2 little penguins were waddling
Until 1 saw some water and jumped right in!

1 little penguin was waddling
Until 1 saw some water and jumped right in!

No little penguins are waddling
They have all decided to go for a swim

Simple Vocabulary Words

These are optional vocabulary cards to show your child before reading the story to help with understanding. It is also a great idea to point out the animals while reading the book!



POLAR BEAR



SEAL



PENGUIN



WALRUS

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SNOWY OWL



ARCTIC FOX



ARCTIC

Art Project: Polar Bear

What you need for this activity:

- *Non-toxic Glue
- *Child-safe scissors
- *White paper plate (or large white circle)
- *2 white half circles (for the ears)
- *1 black circle cut from construction paper for nose
- *2 black circles cut from construction paper for eyes (or googly eyes)
- *White cotton balls, tissue paper, ripped white paper
- *Black yarn or pipe cleaner

Directions:

Step 1: Cut two half circles out of the white paper and attach them to the back of your paper plate towards the top (for the ears).

Step 2: Cover the front of the plate in cotton balls, tissue paper, ripped up white paper etc. using your glue.

Step 3: Cut a circle for the nose (if you are not using googly eyes, two more for the eyes) and glue them onto the plate.

Step 4: Add a mouth using black yarn or pipe cleaner.

Pre-writing activity: Tic-Tac Snow

What you need for this activity:

*Blank paper

*Writing utensil of choice

*2 different forms of “Snow”- (like cotton balls and packing peanuts)- or if you have enough snow animal figurines you can use those too!

Directions:

This activity goes with the assumption children are able to make horizontal and vertical lines (which are very important as children begin writing letters) as covered in previous activities. Here children will combine vertical and horizontal lines to form a grid- aka Tic-Tac-Toe. We recommend making it large! Then let children play Tic-Tac-Toe but instead of using X and O, use the different types of snow!

**Variation: If you are lucky enough to have snow-children could also do this activity outside! Either create a Tic-Tac-Toe board in the snow by tracing lines into it or creating one using sticks! Children could form different size snowballs to play Tic-Tac-Toe with or they could use pinecones and acorns etc.!

Math Activity: Sorting by size

What you need for this activity:

*Snow animals (can be stuffed animals, figurines) OR Snowballs in different sizes (if this is possible)!

-If you cannot do either one of these-feel free to print the sorting by size cards below.

Directions:

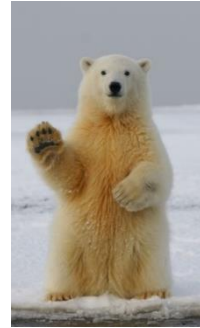
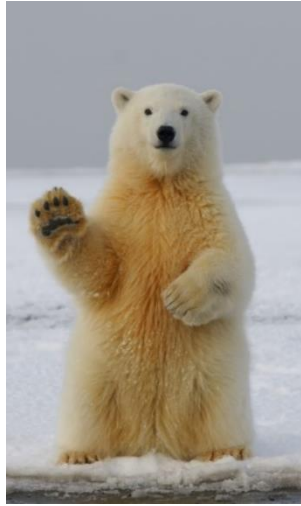
An essential skill for children to gain at this age is the ability to tell the difference between different sized items and classify them according to this.

Ask your child(ren) to sort the objects into three groups: small, medium, and large. (If there are some animals that are really big, they may also want an extra-large group)!

Following this, ask the children to arrange the objects from smallest to largest.

*If you would like to challenge them even more, ask the children in nature which animals they think would be smallest and which would be largest (i.e., penguins are smaller than polar bears).

Sorting cards for small-large



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Language Activity: “I’m going to see snow animals and I’m Taking...”

What you need for this activity:

*This game can be played without any supplies however for the optional variation:

-One bag for each child

-Snow “supplies”- thermometer, warm coat, mittens, socks, snow pants, box (to freeze ice and make an igloo), something noisy...

Directions:

Everyone sits in a circle and one person begins “I’m going to see snow animals and I’m bringing_____ because I need it to_____ (i.e., I’m bringing mittens because I need them to stay warm). Let each child go around and say what they are bringing and why-this is a great way to practice oral communication skills.

-To play the variation- children may only choose objects that are in the middle of the circle and put them in their bags. Then once all of the items are gone, they can show everything they have and say if they feel ready to go to see snow animals. Or if there may be things they would still want to take with!

Science Activity: How does a polar bear stay warm?

What you need for this activity:

- *Plastic container with ice water
- *3 small Ziploc plastic bags
- *Shortening
- *Spatula

Directions:

Let children experiment with sticking their hands in the cold water-ask them how does it feel?

How do they keep their hands warm when it's cold outside-then ask how they think polar bears do it. There's a good chance that many of them will say with fur-which is part of the reason but it is also due to the blubber (i.e., fat) on the polar bear.

Then:

- *Turn one small bag inside out, place it on the child's hand and cover it in shortening-really cover it!
- *Place the shortening covered bag into a clean Ziploc bag (so you don't get shortening in the water).
- *Put both hands in the water at the same time and see which one stays warmer!
- *Give the simple explanation that polar bears (and many other arctic animals) have a bunch of blubber-like the shortening and that keeps them warm when it's really cold outside!